

FAILURE REDEFINED...

BY **NELLIE FELIPE**

How do you define failure? Dictionary.com defines it as follows:

1. An act or instance of failing or proving unsuccessful; lack of success
2. Nonperformance of something due, required, or expected
3. A subnormal quantity or quality; an insufficiency
4. Deterioration or decay, esp. of vigor, or strength
5. A condition of being bankrupt by reason of insolvency
6. A becoming insolvent or bankrupt
7. A person or thing that proves unsuccessful

The reason for presenting the definition of failure up front is so that we can all be on the same page as to how the world at large defines it.

As children when we failed, we were eager for a “do over... please, please, please. I want a do over!” Then we grew up... ouch.

Things fail all the time. We see automobiles, cribs, medicine, foods, and so many more types of products recalled due to public safety issues. It seems these days that there is always some kind of recall, most recently Toyota, Tylenol, and spinach.

I know this may sound a bit unbelievable, probably even ridiculous. Failure never has to be yours nor define you. Things fail; it is not meant for people to fail. You do not have to fail.

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Failure is meant to:

- grow us
- take us to greater heights
- provide us with wisdom
- keep us out of harm's way
- polish the rough places
- lead us to greater success

How can we look at failure as something detrimental? Where is our childhood boldness and courage? The one who screamed, "Do over, do over! I wasn't ready yet, do over!"

Do not get me wrong, I enjoy success and victory as much as the next person does. It feels great. However, what led me to success were the trials and errors, and the lessons learned. We consider all of these things failures yet without them, I would have never found the formula for my next level of success.

How can failure mean decline in strength or effectiveness, becoming insolvent, and not achieving? It is an amazing tool that leads you to greater understanding, growth, and success. It works much like a GPS, if we are going in the wrong direction, going about it incorrectly, out of timing, or out of our lane, it warns and points us in the right direction. Let us redefine failure as a tool meant to alert us when something needs re-evaluating, correcting, and/or changing.

Change our definition and perception of failure and we can begin capitalizing on it. Learn how to use it to ensure your future success, [click here to read last month's article "Failing for Success... Fail Early, Fail Fast, and Fail Forward"](#)



Nellie Felipe is the founder of [ARIZE Coaching and Consulting](#). As a certified personal growth and leadership coach, she aspires to provoke people to rise in excellence. She believes everyone is born with a purpose that is not just their own; every person's success impacts and facilitates the success of others. No vision is too small or too large to achieve. If you are truly ready to do what it takes to get to your mountaintop, she will be there to evoke the leader in you. She will come along side you as an accountability partner, a godly counsel, a seasoned professional, a caring friend.

As a consultant, Nellie will equip you with repeatable processes and systems. The consulting services offerings consists of process improvement, project management and change management utilizing proven Six Sigma, Lean Six Sigma and PMI PM methodologies.

She has substantial experience helping leaders achieve greater goals. Attend one of Nellie's online teleseminars, take her on as a coach, or bring her in as a consultant to help you with your business needs. Invite her to speak at your next team building or leadership event. [Check out her services](#). Subscribe to the [free newsletters](#) and [follow her on Twitter!](#)

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